

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, line 16, as follows:

Among the effects obtained by the use of the fluoro-aliphatic group-containing polymer, the film-uniformizing function depends on the surface-activating capability, that is, the capability of image-forming composition to decrease the surface tension of a dispersion solution of the composition in organic solvent during the preparation of the lithographic printing plate. The other effects obtained by the use of the fluoro-aliphatic group-containing polymer are due to high hydrophobicity of the compound, or other characteristics of the compound such as orientation, deviation and localization to the surface of the image-forming layer. That is, the fluoro-aliphatic group-containing polymer can be relatively distributed to around the surface of the image-forming composition and thus the polymer gives the surface of the image-forming composition especially high hydrophobicity with maintaining the removability of the image-forming layer during the development. Furthermore, it is also possible to improve the fluoro-aliphatic group-containing polymer without altering copolymerizable components. For instance, J.P. KOKAI 2000-187318 discloses that the use of a polymer compound derived from monomers having at least two fluoro-aliphatic groups may provide an image-forming material ~~which~~ which shows excellent discrimination between the solubilities of the image and non-image areas.

Please amend the paragraph at page 15, line 24, as follows:

Poly(oxyalkylene)-acrylate or -methacrylate, which is a specific example of polyoxyalkylene group-containing ethylenic unsaturated monomer of the present invention, can be prepared by reacting commercially available

hydroxypoly(oxyalkylene) compound such as Pluronic (product name, available from Asahi Denka Co. Ltd.), ADEKA Polyether (product name, available from Asahi Denka Co. Ltd.), Carbowax (available from Glico Products, Co.), ~~Toriton~~ Triton (available from Rohm and Haas) and P.E.G (Dai-ichi Kogyo Seiyaku Co. Ltd.), with acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, acryl chloride, methacryl chloride or acrylic acid anhydride, in publicly known procedure. In addition, it is possible to utilize poly(oxyalkylene)diacrylate obtained by the known procedure.

Please amend the paragraph at page 17, line 18, as follows:

In the present invention, an additional monomer which can be copolymerized with essential monomers, (A) a monomer represented by general ~~formula~~ formula (I) and (B) a ~~polyoxyalkylene~~ polyoxyalkylene group-containing ethylenic unsaturated monomer, can be used.

Please amend the paragraph at page 18, line 20, as follows:

amide of methacrylic acids such as ~~methacrylamide~~ methacrylamide, N-alkyl-methacrylamide (the alkyl group may be those having 1 to 3 carbon atoms such as methyl, ethyl and propyl group), N,N-dialkyl-methacrylamide (the alkyl group may be those having 1 to 3 carbon atoms), N-hydroxyethyl-N-methyl-methacrylamide and N-2-acetamideethyl-N-acetylmethacrylamide;

Please amend the paragraph at page 21, line 3, as follows:

Polymerization reaction can be conducted in the presence or absence of solvent. In view of workability, polymerization is preferably conducted in the presence of solvent. Examples of solvents are alcohols such as ethyl alcohol, iso-

propyl alcohol, n- or iso-butyl alcohol and tert-butyl alcohol; ketones such as acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, and methyl amyl ketone; esters such as methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, methyl lactate, ethyl lactate and butyl lactate; esters of monocarboxylic acid such as methyl 2-oxypropionate, ethyl 2-oxypropionate, propyl 2-oxypropionate, ~~buty~~ butyl 2-oxypropionate, methyl 2-methoxypropionate, ethyl 2-methoxypropionate, propyl 2-methoxypropionate, and butyl 2-methoxypropionate; polar solvents such as dimethylformamide, dimethylsulfoxide, and N-methylpyrrolidone; ethers such as methyl cellosolve, cellosolve, butyl cellosolve, butyl carbitol, and ethyl cellosolve acetate; propylene glycols and esters thereof such as propylene glycol, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, propylene glycol monoethyl ether acetate, and propylene glycol monobutyl ether acetate;

halogenated solvent such as 1,1,1-trichloroethane and chloroform;

ethers such as tetrahydrofuran and dioxane;

aromatic compounds such as benzene, toluene and xylene;

and fluorinated inert liquids such as perfluorooctane and perfluorotri-n-butylamine.

Please amend the paragraph at page 33, line 1, as follows:

The compound containing an addition polymerizable double bond may arbitrarily be selected from compounds having at least one, preferably at least two terminal ethylenically unsaturated double bonds. Examples thereof are those having chemical structures such as monomers, prepolymers, i.e., ~~dimmers~~ dimers, trimers and oligomers, or mixtures or copolymers thereof. Examples of such monomers and copolymers thereof are esters of unsaturated carboxylic acids (such as acrylic acid,

methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, crotonic acid, isocrotonic acid and maleic acid) with aliphatic polyhydric alcohol compounds and amides of unsaturated carboxylic acids with aliphatic polyvalent amine compounds.

Please amend the paragraph at page 74, line 22, as follows:

n-Propylamine (26.60 g) and ethyl acetate (120 mL) were placed in a glass flask equipped with a stirrer, a ~~condenser~~ condenser and a thermometer, and perfluorobutansulfonyl fluoride (available from Azumax Company) (45.31 g) was added dropwise over 1 hour using a dropping funnel to the flask in an ice bath. After completion of the dropping, the mixture in the flask was heated at 40 °C with an oil bath and the mixture was stirred for 5 hours. Then the mixture was cooled to the room temperature and was washed twice with 75 ml of 9% aq. hydrochloric acid solution. Ethyl acetate layer was dried with magnesium sulfate and then was filtered off. Ethyl acetate was evaporated under vacuum to obtain N-propylperfluorobutanesulfonamide (46.8 g).

Please amend the paragraph at page 75, line 5, as follows:

N-propylperfluorobutanesulfonamide (34.12 g), ethylene carbonate (9.25 g) and potassium hydroxide (0.4 g) were added to a glass flask equipped with a stirrer and a condenser. The mixture was heated to 200 °C with an oil bath and was stirred for 5 hours. Then the mixture was cooled to room ~~temerature~~ temperature and purified with a ~~silicagel~~ silica gel column chromatography (solvent: Hexane/Ethyl acetate = 8/1) to give N-propyl-N-ethanol-perfluorobutane-sulfonaminde (31.6 g).

Please amend the paragraph at page 75, line 12, as follows:

N-propyl-N-ethanol-perfluorobutanesulfonamide (20.80 g), triethyl-amine (7.10 g) and ethyl acetate (300 mL) were placed in a glass flask equipped with a stirrer and a ~~condeser~~ condenser and acrylic chloride (5.87 g) was added dropwise for 1 hour using a dropping funnel to the flask in an ice bath. The mixture was stirred for 4 hours at room temperature. Then the mixture was washed twice with 200 ml of water. Ethyl acetate layer was dried with magnesium sulfate and then was filtered off. Ethyl acetate was evaporated under vacuum to obtain fluorine atom-containing monomer (I-1) (21.1 g).

Please amend the paragraph at page 76, line 10, as follows:

Preparation Example 3

A mixture of fluorine atom-containing monomer (I-1) (60 parts by weight), monoacrylate compound comprising a copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide (40 parts by weight) and MEK (200 parts by weight) were placed in a ~~glas~~ glass flask equipped with a stirrer, a condenser and a thermometer and the mixture was heated to 75° under nitrogen atmosphere. Then a polymerization initiator (V-601) (1 part by weight) and lauryl mercaptan as a chain ~~trasfer~~ transfer agent (10 parts by weight) were added and the mixture was stirred for 5 hours and further stirred for 2 hours at 90°. The weight average molecular weight of the resulting polymer (polymer (b) of the present invention) was determined by the gel permeation chromatography (reference material: polystyrene) and as a result, it was found to be 8,300.

Please amend the paragraph at page 83, line 1, as follows:

The presensitized plates for light-sensitive lithographic printing plates thus prepared were evaluated according to the following methods. The sensitivity thereof was evaluated by means of the number of clear steps, which was determined by exposing them to the light rays from a 3 kW metal halide lamp positioned at a distance of 1 m from the presensitized plate for one minute through a step wedge (density difference between every neighboring two steps was set at 0.15) (available from Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.) and developing each exposed plate with an aqueous solution having a molar ratio: $\text{SiO}_2/\text{K}_2\text{O}$ of 1.16 and an SiO_2 concentration of 1.4% as a developer in PS Processor 900V (available from Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.) to thus determine the number of clear steps for each plate. In this respect, the higher the number of clear steps, the higher the sensitivity of the corresponding presensitized plate. The gradation was herein defined to be the difference between the number of clear steps of each sample determined by the foregoing method and the number of solid steps thereof. Regarding the gradation, the lower the difference, the higher the contrast of the corresponding sample. The development latitude of each sample was expressed in terms of the pH-dependent change in the number of solid steps, which was determined by repeating the ~~same~~ same procedures for exposure to light and development used for the determination of the sensitivity except that the pH value of the developer was increased and decreased by 0.2 relative to that of the foregoing developer as a standard to thus determine the intended change. In this respect, the smaller the resulting value or change, the better the development latitude of each sample. The results thus obtained are summarized in the following Table 4.

Please amend the paragraph at page 84, line 3, as follows:

As will be clear from the data listed in Table 4, the contrast of each product of Examples 7 to 12 was increased without any reduction of the sensitivity and the development latitude thereof was also excellent. In contrast, the lithographic ~~printing~~ printing plates of Comparative Examples 4 and 5 which were obtained from the original lithographic printing plates comprising fluorine polymer which are not within the present invention show deteriorated results in sensitivity, gradation, and development latitude.

Please amend the title at page 87, line 18, as follows:

[~~Examples~~ Example 21 and Comparative Examples ~~9a and 9~~ and 10]

Please amend the table at page 105, halfway between lines 10 and 15 , as follows:

(Replenisher)

Potassium hydroxide	6 g
Potassium carbonate	6 g
Sodium sulfite	1 g
Polyethylene glycol mononaphthyl <u>mononaphthyl</u> ether	150 g
Sodium dibutyl naphthalene sulfonate	50 g
Potassium hydroxyethanediphosphonate	4 g
Silicon TSA-731 (available from Toshiba Silicone Co. Ltd.)	0.1 g
Water	786.9 g